

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

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Secretary of Defense William Perry will leave Washington Wednesday, March 16 to visit Moscow, Russia; Almaty, Kazakhstan; Kiev, Ukraine; and Minsk, Belarus. He will return to Washington on Wednesday, March 23.

He will be meeting with senior officials in each country such as Presidents, Ministers of Defense, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and key members of the parliaments.

In each country, Secretary Perry will participate in Defense Conversion Committee meetings. Dr. Perry will sign Nunn-Lugar implementing agreements or amendments on defense conversion assistance in some countries.

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Perry to visit ex-Soviet republics

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Perry will visit Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus March 17-23 to discuss conversion of defense industries to civilian use in the former Soviet states, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Apart from offering U.S. technical help for such conversion, defense department officials said. Mr. Perry will also discuss nuclear arms reduction and closer bilateral military cooperation with the four countries.

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Secretary Perry travels to former Soviet Union

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Perry left yesterday for the former Soviet Union in the hopes of reducing lingering nuclear danger and helping to convert the region's vast defense industry.

Accompanied by assistant secretaries and business representatives, Mr. Perry will have two days of meetings on Russia's nuclear arsenal and the problem of turning tank and missile factories over to civilian production. Over the weekend and next week, Mr. Perry is to carry a similar agenda to Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus.

Mr. Perry will be given extraordinary access to once super-secret Soviet facilities, including the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan and an SS-25 intercontinental ballistic missile site in Pervomaysk, Ukraine. In Moscow he will meet in closed session with the defense and foreign affairs committee of the Russia's legislature. He will also plan joint U.S.-Russian military exercises.